

## CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method of brewing malt beverages comprising:  
preparing a hot wort;  
adding wood chips to the hot wort;  
cooling the hot wort; and  
fermenting the cooled wort to produce a  
fermented malt beverage.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the wood chips  
are added to the hot wort in a brew kettle.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the wood chips  
are removed from the wort before the fermentation step.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the wood chips  
are removed after the fermentation step.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the wood chips  
are oak.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein the oak is  
American oak.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein the oak is French oak.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the wood chips are toasted.

9. The method of claim 5, wherein the oak chips are toasted.

10. A method of brewing malt beverages comprising:  
preparing a wort;  
fermenting the wort in the presence of wood chips to produce a fermented malt beverage; and  
removing the wood chips from the fermented malt beverage.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the wood chips are oak.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the oak is American oak.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the oak is French oak.

14. The method of claim 10, wherein the wood chips are toasted.

15. The method of claim 11, wherein the oak chips are toasted.

16. A method of brewing malt beverages comprising:  
preparing a hot wort;  
cooling the hot wort; and  
fermenting the cooled wort to produce a  
fermented malt beverage;

wherein a water extract of wood chips is added to one of the hot wort, the fermentation step, or the fermented malt beverage.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the wood chips are oak.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the oak is American oak.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein the oak is French oak.

20. The method of claim 16, wherein the wood chips are toasted.

21. The method of claim 17, wherein the oak chips are toasted.

22. A method of brewing malt beverages comprising:  
preparing a mash;  
adding wood chips to the mash;  
separating wort from the mash; and  
fermenting the wort to produce a fermented malt beverage.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the wood chips are added to the mash in a mash tub or a cooker.

24. The method of claim 22, wherein the wood chips are removed from the mash in the separation step.

25. The method of claim 22, wherein the wood chips are oak.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein the oak is American oak.

27. The method of claim 25, wherein the oak is French oak.

28. The method of claim 22, wherein the wood chips are toasted.

29. The method of claims 25, wherein the oak chips are toasted.

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